

Ask the U.S. Embassy

March 13, 2013

Changes to U.S. Visa Procedures Will Result in Lower Fees

As mentioned in last week's Ask the Embassy column, the Visa Unit at U.S. Embassy Kingston will introduce new appointment scheduling procedures on Monday, March 18. This week, U.S. Embassy Kingston is pleased to announce that our new procedures will also result in the elimination of certain visa-related fees.

Starting on March 18, nonimmigrant and immigrant visa applicants will no longer be required to pay a fee for DHL delivery of their passports. The cost of this delivery service will be covered by the regular visa application fee. The current visa application fees are not changing.

Additionally, nonimmigrant visa applicants no longer have to purchase a PIN code in order to schedule an appointment by phone. As we explained last week, all PIN codes purchased at National Commercial Bank expired on March 12. There is no refund available if you did not use your code by March 12.

Starting March 18, all calls to the appointment scheduling phone line will be free of charge, including calls to reschedule appointments. Applicants will still have the option to schedule appointments online, if they prefer.

From now until March 18, both our phone and online appointment scheduling systems are down for maintenance. If you have a true emergency situation – involving a death in the family, an urgent need for medical travel, or unanticipated emergency business travel – you may contact the Embassy at KingstonNIVEmergency@state.gov between now and March 18 to request an emergency appointment.

All visa fees are valid for one year from the date of purchase. Applicants who purchased a visa fee prior to March 14 can contact the Embassy at KingstonTransApp@state.gov to arrange for an appointment after March 18.

Next week's column will provide step-by-step instructions about how to schedule an appointment using our new procedures. You may also obtain additional information on our website, <http://kingston.usembassy.gov>, or by calling our automated phone system at 876-702-6000.